

GREAT DRAGON WARRIOR

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To Uncle Poh Kan: Thanks for taking me to great bookshops, sharing precious books from your personal library, and all the gifts of novels, comics and DVDs over the years.

To Aunty Gek: Thanks for your kindness, your wonderful hand-drawn cards, and for teaching me how to control slugs in a humane way.

—Swee San

Look Ma, I can draw dragons!

—Wen Dee

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Illustrated by Wen Dee Tan



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A long, long time ago, there was a curious young dragon who dreamed of becoming a great warrior. His name was Basmi.

One day, Basmi was playing with two friends, Toto and Cora, pretending they were great dragon warriors. Suddenly, they heard a groan coming from a nearby cave.

"OowwWW...AuUug...



OUCH..."

Toto and Cora jumped and looked around in fear.

Only Basmi stepped forward. "Who's there?" he demanded.

"Omodo. I am a great dragon warrior," came the reply.

Basmi was excited. He had always wanted to meet a great dragon warrior.

He rushed towards the cave, but Toto and Cora held him back.

"Be careful!" warned Toto.

"We shouldn't talk to strangers," said Cora.

"If you're a great dragon warrior, why are you hiding in a dark cave?" Toto shouted at the cave.

"I was injured in a great battle. I am recovering from my injuries. I will die if sunlight touches me," Omodo said.



Thrilled, Basmi said, "Oh, great dragon warrior Omodo, let me be your disciple. Let me serve you. Let me bring you medicine or food."

"Please get me a little mountain spring water," said Omodo.

"At once, Master!" Basmi said.





"You'll be travelling a long, long way to very strange places."

"It could be dangerous," said Cora.

"Danger doesn't scare dragon warriors,"

Basmi declared.

Having said so, Basmi removed twigs and leaves from a forest trail to make a runway.



